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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,261	11/20/2001	Eamonn P. Hobbs	ANGIO P-26	9573

7590

03/29/2004

Lloyd McAulay
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EXAMINER

SIRMONS, KEVIN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3763

10

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/989,261

Applicant(s)

HOBBS ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin C. Simons

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-34 and 38-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 30-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 64 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38-47 and 55-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 48-54 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claims 61-63 directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 61 and 62 are directed to a dove tail coupling between the surface which clearly reads on (fig. 5B, species 4) and 63 which is directed to a loop that reads on (fig. 9, species VIII).

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 61-63 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Objections

Claim 39 is objected to because of the following informalities: see below. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 39 recites the limitation "the sidewall." There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 38-47 and 55-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mauch U.S. Pat. No. 6,117,117.

Mauch discloses a catheter assembly comprising: at least one tube and a longitudinal companion member connected to one another at surfaces thereof along a predetermined zone (figs. 5 and 12); a linear engagement member (19), extending longitudinally through at least one of said tube and companion member (figs. 5 and 12), and engaging one of said tube and companion member at said zone to hold said tube and companion member together at said zone (figs. 5 and 12); said tube, said companion member and said linear engagement member extending proximal of said zone by an amount sufficient to extend out of the body of a patient in whom the catheter is embedded (figs. 5 and 12); withdrawal of said linear engagement member from said zone causing said tube and said companion member to disconnect (col. 7); as to claims 39-40, (fig. 5 and 12); as to claims 41-43, (42 and 44); as to claims 44-47, (the surfaces of Mauch are flat, circular surfaces); as to claims 55-57, (figs. 5 and 12); as to claims 58-59, (figs. 5 and 12); as to claim 60, (19).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 48-54 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 64 is allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Mauch discloses the device substantially as claimed except for a recess on the surface of the other of said tube or companion member against which prong abuts, said recess engaging the abutting end of said prong.

Response to Amendment

Drawings

Applicant has convincingly argued the objection to the drawings. Therefore, the objection has been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38-64 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

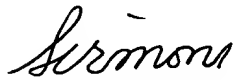
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period,

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then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Kevin C. Sirmons whose telephone number is (703) 306-5410. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.



Kevin C. Sirmons
Patent Examiner
3/21/04